

August 15, 2006

TO: American Library Association,
ALCTS/CCS Committee on Cataloging:
Description and Access

FROM: Paul Weiss, PCC, on behalf of CONSER

RE: CONSER (Access) Level record changes for RDA Chapters 1-5

CONSER would like to recommend certain changes to RDA chapters 1-5 in order to accommodate the new CONSER (Access) Record “Guidelines” within the cataloging rules. Suggestions for “access record” changes to RDA chapters 6 and 7 were incorporated in our comments on those chapters in CC:DA’s Confluence database in August 2006. Although we recognize that some of these changes could be accomplished through CONSER documentation alone, we prefer that such changes be available in the rules for non-CONSER catalogers who may not have access to our documentation.

1.4. Mandatory Elements of Description

Serials catalogers have traditionally not provided a date of publication in the publisher area, when the first issue is not at hand – even when the information has been known. It is not clear if the use of a date in a note (if the information is known), is sufficient. In other words, does a chronological designation in the numbering element rather than a date in the publication field satisfy the “mandatory” requirement?

The text from the CONSER Access Record “Guidelines” states:

“It is not required to supply dates in 260 \$c. In all cases, supply dates of publication/designation in a note in an unformatted style (field 362, first indicator 1, “Began with ...”). This should make it clear to the user that the information provided refers to beginning and ending dates of the publication, rather than a library’s holdings.”

1st bulleted point: The addition of an option for an access point in lieu of statement of responsibility is very useful and one of the “guidelines” we’re planning to use for the CONSER (Access) Record. If there is any disagreement about this being in RDA or not, we would like to express our preference that it be retained in the text.

1.6. Transcription

1.6.2. Numerals and Numbers expressed as Words and 1.6.7. Abbreviations

CONSER would like to simplify transcription through an option to have more flexibility for the transcription of numerals and numbers expressed as words and abbreviations – when they are not in the title. The CONSER Access Record “Guidelines” state:

“It is not required to use abbreviations when supplying this [numbering] information; formulate the note as usual (i.e. keep the usual order and structure of the note) but instead of using prescribed abbreviations, transcribe what appears on the item (i.e., if a word is spelled out on the item, spell it out; if a word is abbreviated on the item, use the abbreviation as found.). Numbers may be transcribed as found or, if numbers are written out on issues, they may be recorded in Arabic numerals, whichever is easiest.”

Given that we are also suggesting elimination of formatted numbering statements in 2.6 below, such flexibility would enable catalogers to record the necessary data as quickly as possible without any loss of critical information.

2.3.1.12. Major and minor changes [for serials]

CONSER and RDA generally have the same instructions for what constitutes major and minor changes, although RDA (as does AACR2) says “that changes the meaning of the title OR indicates a different subject matter”. In contrast, the CONSER Access Record “Guidelines” state: “such that new subject headings would be required.” In other words, according to RDA, it could be a major change if a change in word(s) in the title changes the meaning of the title but doesn’t change the subject content, but according to the CONSER Access Record “Guidelines,” it could be minor.

CONSER recommends that in RDA the word “or” be changed to “and” in:

“a) Major changes

In general, consider the following to be major changes in a title proper:

...

ii) the addition, deletion, or change of any word after the first five words (the first six words if the title begins with an article) that changes the meaning of the title AND indicates a different subject matter”

It would also be helpful if this change were suggested to ISBD and ISSN in order to enable ongoing international harmonization of major and minor title change rules.

2.3.2.5. Recording changes in parallel titles

A reference to 2.3.1.12 for what constitutes major and minor changes for serials would be helpful.

2.3.3.6. Recording changes in other title information

b) Serials and c) integrating resources

CONSER requests an addition to the rule stating that recording changes in issuing body information is not required, if the appropriate access point is added and authority record is available. Although we realize that RDA 1.4 says “Optionally, provide a controlled access point (see chapters 11-16) in lieu of the mandatory statement of responsibility”, we would like it to be explicitly stated here also:

“Option: a controlled access point (i.e., authority record created and/or maintained) may be added in lieu of a note about changes in issuing body information.”

2.3.5.5. Earlier and later parallel titles

A reference to 2.3.1.12 for what constitutes major and minor changes for serials would be helpful.

2.4.1. Parallel Statement of Responsibility

A reference to the option in 2.4.0.3 would be helpful.

2.4.2. Change in Statement of Responsibility

A reference to the option in 2.4.0.3 would be helpful.

2.5.2.3. Recording statements of responsibility relating to the edition

and

2.5.2.4. Parallel statement of responsibility relating to the edition

A reference to the option in 2.4.0.3 would be helpful.

2.6. Numbering

2.6.0.3. Transcription

CONSER recommends simplifying 2.6.7.3. to say “Make notes on beginning and ending numbering.” -- and making it the general rule in 2.6.0.3. (renamed ‘Recording numbering’).

Although RDA 1.4 says numbering is mandatory, it is the information that is critical and not how it is recorded. Library users generally do not understand formatted numbering statements because they appear to be holdings information rather than bibliographic information.

Many other rules in 2.6 will need rewording if this recommendation for 2.6.0.3 is accepted. CONSER would be willing to draft changes to other affected 2.6 rules if the recommendation for 2.6.0.3 is accepted.

2.8. Place of Publication, Distribution, etc.

2.8.0.4. More than one place of publication, distribution, etc.

CONSER requests an option be added: “For titles published by multinational corporations with several publishing locations, record only the first named one.”

The place of publication is often irrelevant for finding and identifying these titles, as library users don’t know the first named place of publication for multinational corporations and this information often changes. Providing an additional place of publication in the country of the cataloging agency sometimes results in duplicate records being created in the OCLC database for resources published in multiple countries when they are cataloged in different countries.

2.9.1.2 Recording date of publication

CONSER requests this element be made optional for serials, as numbering information is more critical than publication date. See argument under 1.4. above.